

Docket No. F-7167

Ser. No. 09/960,671

REMARKS

Claims 12, 14 and 15 have been amended. Claim 16 and 17 have been retained unchanged. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 have been cancelled.

The Examiner's indication that claim 7 is allowable and that claims 13 to 17 would be allowable if submitted in independent form is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, applicant has submitted claims 13 to 17 in independent form. In this regard, it would be seen that claim 12, has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of claim 13. Accordingly, claim 12 as amended herein represents claim 13 in independent form. In view of the Examiner's indication, claim 12 as amended herein is believed in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend on claim 12 and are considered allowable in view of the Examiner's indication. Claims 16 and 17 depend on claim 15 and are considered allowable in view of the Examiner's indication.

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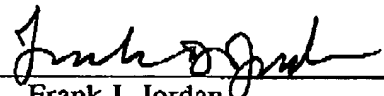
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Regarding the Examiner's objection to claim 2, line 2, an amendment has been made as suggested by the Examiner which will overcome this objection.

Since claims 1 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 have been cancelled and only indicated allowable claims 7, 12 and 14 to 17 remain in this application, it is believed that this application is in condition for issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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